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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00049 232107 Z

72
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

RSR-01 /091 W
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R 231955 Z MAR 73
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 483
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 49

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PINT UK (NI)

SUBJECT: NATIONALIST REACTIONS TO WHITE PAPER

REF: BELFAST 48 BEGIN SUMMARY -- NATIONALIST REACTIONS TO WHITE PAPER VARIES FROM CAUTIOUS APPROVAL (SDLP) TO OUTRIGHT REJECTION (PROVO SINN FEIN).

MAIN BODY OF NATIONALIST OPINION SEEMS HOWEVER TOBE SAFELY ON SIDE OF MAKING WHITE PAPER' S SYSTEM WORK. END SUMMARY.

1. SDLP' S REACTION TO WHITE PAPER 48 HOURS IN COMING, IS A THOROUGH " CRITIQUE" BALANCING WHITE PAPER AGAINST PARTY' S OWN PROPOSALS, AND GIVES WHITE PAPER" CAUTIOUS WELCOME". PARTY WILL CONTEST ELECTIONS TO ASSEMBLY AND TRY MAKE NEW SYSTEM WORK, BUT IS DISAPPOINTED ABOUT NUMBER OF POINTS. THESE INCLUDE MAINTENANCE OF DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL, INSUFFICIENT PROGRESS TOWARDS COUNCIL OF IRELAND, FAILURE TO MENTION REORGANIZATION AND REFORM OF POLICE, AND INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO ECONOMIC DIMENSION OF ULSTER PROBLEM. SDLP STATEMENT EXPRESSES ANXIETIES ABOUT PROVINCES CONSTITUTIONAL STABILITY IF IT DEPENDS ON EVER CHANGEABLE ACT OF PARLIAMENT (BUT WHAT' S NEW ABOUT THAT?), ABOUT LAC OF SPECIFICS ON
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POWERS OF SECRETARY OF STATE AND ON PROCEDURES OF ASSEMBLY, AND ABOUT PRACTICAL MEANING OF WHITE PAPERS CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS. STATEMENT ALSO MAKE CLEAR SDLP' S COMMITMENT TO POWER-SHARING AT ALL LEVELS (NOT JUST AT TOP), TO REPEAL OF FLAGS AND EMBLEMS ACT (SO MINORITY CAN LEGALLY DISPLAY THEIRS) , AND TO AMNESTY FOR ALL " PEOPLE FROM ALL SECTIONS OF COMMUNITY, WHO OWE THEIR IMPRISONMENT TO CURRENT UPHEAVAL IN NORTHERN IRELAND " (SINCE SUCH ACTIVISTS ARE AS MUCH VICTIMS OF " DEEP AND DESPERATE PROBLEMS" AS ANYONE ELSE.

2. NATIONALIST PARTY HAS NOT YET ISSUED OFFICIAL PART POSITION ON WHITE PAPER. THOSE OF ITS MEMBERS WHO HAVE COMMENTED HAVE STRESSED WHITE PAPER' S LACK OF REAL PROVISION FOR COUNCIL OF IRELAND. (COMMENTATORS FROM THIS QUARTER HAVE OBVIOUSLY BEEN DISCOMFITED BY RESULTS OF RECENT TESTS OF OPINION IN BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH THAT HAVE SHOWN LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR UNITED IRELAND).

3. REPUBLICAN- LABOUR PARTY SETTLEMENT CALLED WHITE PAPER " SINCERE ATTEMPT BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO SOLVE IRISH QUESTION " AND REGRETTED ABSENCE OF PROPOSALS FROM DUBLIN. ABSENCE OF SUCH PROPOSALS SHOWS LACK OF INTEREST, AND PROVVES IT BETTER FOR ULSTERMEN TO WORK OUT PROBLEMS TOGETHER " WITHOUT DOUBTFUL BENEFIT OF THEIR (SOUTHERNERS') ADVANCE NOW". STATEMENT REGRETTED LACK OF ACTION ON " REPRESSIVE" LEGISLATION (FLAGS AND EMBLEMS ACT, PUBLIC ORDER ACT AND SPECIAL POWERS ACT), AGREED WITH PAISLEY THAT UNDER WHITE PAPER ULSTERMEN ARE RENDERED SECOND CLASS CITIZENS, BUT NEVERTHELESS WELCOMED ELECTIONS AND URGED THEIR EBING HELD ASAP,

4. PROVOS HAVE NOT SAID ANYTHING LOCALLY, BUT REPORTEDLY HAVE ISSUED STATEMENT IN DUBLIN REJECTING WHITE PAPER.

5. REPUBLICAN CLUBS EXECUTIVE (OFFICIALS) ARE REPORTEDLY STILL STUDYING WHITE PAPER.

6. OFFICIAL DOMINATED NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION (NICRA) STATEMENT " WELCOMED SOME OF MORE POSITIVE " , BUT NOTED WHITE PAPER WAS BRITISH ATTEMPT TO CLEAN UP BRITISH MESS " IRRESPECTIVE OF NEEDS OR ASPIRATIONS OF THE MAJORITY OF OUR PEOPLE". FUNDAMENTAL FLAW IN WHITE PAPER, NICRA SAIS, IS " ATTEMPT TO RECONCILE GENERALIZED DECLARATIONS
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OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS WITH CONTINUATION OF INTERNMENT WITHOUT OPEN AND FAIR TRIAL". " WIDE DICTATORIAL POWERS" ARE ENVISAGED AS BEING VESTED IN SECRETARY OF STATE: THIS

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CAN BE COUNTERED WITH PASSAGE OF " COMPREHENSIVE BILL OF RIGHTS
WHICH WOULD MINIMIZE ITS ABILITY TO DO GOOD".

7. CATHOLIC EX- SERVICEMEN' S ASSOCIATION (CESA) SPOKESMAN
SAID WHITE PAPER WAS " MOST REALISTIC APPROISAL OF NI.
PROBLEM BY BRITISH POLITICIANS AND CIVIL SERVANTS YET ACHIEVED".

8. CENTRAL CITIZENS DEFENSE COMMITTEE (CCDC) WHICH IS
NOT PARTISAN IN THEORY BUT NATIONALIST IN FACT, DESCRIBED WHITE
PAPER AS BASIS FOR FUTURE STABILITY THROUGH EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
FOR ALL. PROPOSALS " WOULD RADICALLY CHANGE POLITICAL FRAMEWORK
OF NORTHERN IRELAND ASSOCIATION FOR LEGAL JUSTICE (ALK),
ALSO NATIONALIST DOMINATED BUT OPEN TO ALL COMERS, THROUGHT
MUCH OF WHITE PAPER UNACCEPTABLE, BUT NATURALLY FIXED ON
CONTINUED PROVISION FOR SPECIAL COURTS AND DETENTION WHTOUT TRIAL
AS OBJECTIONABLE.
PENBERTHY

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